



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

AUG 5 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Edward Scott, Chief Operations Officer
Excelerate Energy
1450 Lake Robbins Drive, Suite 200
The Woodlands, Texas 77380

Re: **Notice of Completeness – Aguirre Offshore GasPort Project**
NPDES Permit No. PR0027201

Dear Mr.Scott:

We are writing to inform you that your application for the above-referenced facility for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit has been reviewed for completeness and is complete, in accordance with 40 CFR §124.3 (45 Federal Register 33486, May 19, 1980). This determination is based on the permit application you submitted on July 3, 2013. This determination is based on Application Form 1, Form 2D (Outfalls 001A/B through 005A/B, 006 through 009) and Form 2F (GasPort Fire Control System Test Water and Port-Starboard Water Curtain Discharge) submitted under cover letter dated July 10, 2013.

In addition to the application materials that you have submitted, we will be utilizing information included in the *Aguirre Offshore Gasport Project: Baseline Entrainment Characterization Report, June 2013* and the *Resource Report 1- General Project Description, April 2013* to support our review and development of permit requirements. We may request additional information from you if necessary to clarify, modify or supplement previously submitted material in processing your permit application.

We have also requested Clean Water Act §401 water quality certification from the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board. In your application, you indicated that you would be seeking a thermal mixing zone for temperature for the discharges from Outfalls 001A/B and 002A/B. While the EPA has determined your application complete with respect to NPDES application requirements, the EQB may require additional information in order to consider your mixing zone request.

In accordance with 40 CFR §122.49, the Coastal Zone Management Act prohibits the EPA from issuing a permit for an activity affecting land or water use in the coastal zone until the applicant certifies that the proposed activity complies with the State (Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) Coastal Zone Management Program, and the Commonwealth or its designated agency concurs with the certification (or the Secretary of Commerce overrides the State's nonconcurrence). Please send a request for a coastal zone consistency

determination, along with a copy of your NPDES permit renewal application to:

Ms. Rose A. Ortiz Díaz, Coordinator
Coastal Zone Consistency
Land Use Planning Bureau
Puerto Rico Planning Board
P.O. Box 41119
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00940-1119

It is our understanding that the Puerto Rico Planning Board will not issue a coastal zone consistency determination before a water quality certificate has been issued by the EQB. The EQB can not issue a water quality certificate until the Commonwealth Environmental Impact Assessment process has concluded.

Should you have any questions, please contact Karen O'Brien, at (212) 637-3717.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Anderson, Chief
Clean Water Regulatory Branch

cc: Ms. Annette Feliberty Ruiz, Chief
Point Sources Permits Division, Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board

Mr. Michael Trammel, Senior Director, Environmental Affairs
Excelerate Energy

Mr. John Schaffer, Principal Aquatic Biologist
Tetra Tech, Inc